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ISBA WEEK 13 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear ISBA Members:

Here is your Week 13 Legislative Update with the essential information you need to know about the status of the budget session of the Indiana General Assembly. Bills must pass out of committee in the second chamber by April 10, followed by a third reading vote on or before April 15, 2025, to remain active this session. We believe the Senate Republican Caucus will release its version of HB 1001, the state budget, later today and too late for inclusion in this update. You can check for it on their caucus page: <https://www.indianasenaterepublicans.com/> or the Senate Appropriations Committee [webpage](#). ISBA anticipates an announcement about a proposed compromise between the House and the Senate on SB 1, property tax relief, early next week. The big news that we've been anticipating on these measures is coming – fingers crossed! Three and one-half weeks to go – please keep advocating for kids!

ISBA Bill Tracking List

The updated ISBA Tracking List is available [HERE](#).

ISBA "Top 3 Things to Know" Weekly Video Update

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Week 13 video update.

Key Legislation on the Docket This Week:

If you missed the ISBA email advisory on Wednesday, [SB 287](#), proposing to move to partisan school board elections, was debated on third reading on Monday during the late afternoon. After approximately one hour of debate the bill passed by a 54-40 vote. You can watch the floor debate by fast-forwarding to the 2 hour and 12-minute mark of the recording [HERE](#) (select House Chamber and Monday, March 31 from the dropdown arrow). The Roll Call on the vote and how your representative voted is available [HERE](#). Please thank your state representative if they voted consistent with any commitment they made to you in response to your advocacy efforts.

As a reminder, SB 287 in its current version does not include the addition of a primary election process for school board candidates, prohibits straight party lever voting, and allows a school board candidate to declare nonpartisan on the declaration of candidacy petition (which means no label will appear next to the candidate's name on the ballot). In addition, SB 287 includes the board compensation provision to allow the maximum compensation of school board members to equal to 10 percent of the beginning pay of first year teachers in the school district.

The bill now moves back to the Senate, where Senator Byrne (the bill author) has filed a concurrence motion to accept the changes made to the bill in the House of Representatives. The Senate must still vote on the concurrence. Grassroots advocacy with messaging to your state senator still could have an impact on the outcome of this bill. If you are passionate about this issue, now is the time to be heard whatever your position on this matter.

[SB 366](#) **Education Matters** (Author: Sen. Linda Rogers; Sponsor: Rep. Behning) – The House Education Committee approved of one amendment to this bill and then voted the bill out of the Committee. The amendment (1) requires the secretary of education to prepare a report concerning the feasibility of offering the school bus driver safety education course at several regional locations and (2) reinstates current statutory language that requires the superintendent to discuss the staff performance evaluation plan with teachers. This is a deregulation bill that has provisions that include removing current law that allows a student to transfer to another school corporation if the student can be better accommodated and removing current law on the appointment of teachers to certain committee. The bill is eligible for second reading on the House floor.

[SB 409](#) **Employee Absence for Certain Meetings** (Author: Sen. Rodney Pol; Sponsor: Rep. Becky Cash) – This bill prohibits employers from taking adverse action against employees for attendance at case conference committee meetings and

meetings regarding a child's attendance. The bill limits the parent's attendance to one meeting every calendar year and requires school corporations to provide documentation of the employee's attendance if requested by an employer. The House Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee approved the bill and it is eligible for second reading on the House floor.

SB 442 Instruction Concerning Human Sexuality (Author: Sen. Gary Byrne; Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Davis) – The House Education Committee heard testimony on this bill designed to increase transparency in human sexuality instruction. The bill would require school boards to annually approve: (1) whether instruction on human sexuality will be taught by a male or female instructor; (2) whether the instruction will be presented to male and female students in a unified setting or a separate setting; (3) the weeks during which the instruction will be taught; (4) a short description of the topics intended to be discussed in the class; and (5) all the learning materials that will be used for each grade level, course, or class concerning human sexuality. The bill would also require a school board to post this information on the school corporation website, except that the board would only have to publish a list of the approved learning materials, and requires the school board to establish a grievance procedure available to parents of enrolled students or adult or emancipated minor students enrolled in the school corporation for alleged violations of the new requirements. Lastly, the bill would require the consent form that is given to parents to include a link to the information posted on the website. The Committee will vote on the bill next week.

SB 482 Absenteeism (Author: Sen. Stacey Donato; Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Davis) – Defines "chronically absent". Requires the Department of Education (department) to do the following: (1) Establish a categorization framework to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences based on the reason for the absence; (2) Collect certain information regarding absences from school corporations and charter schools; and (3) Prepare and submit a report regarding the information collected. Provides that the absence policy adopted by the governing body of a school corporation must provide for the categorization of excused and unexcused absences in accordance with the categorization framework established by the department. Allows a prosecuting attorney to hold intervention meetings before filing an affidavit with the court regarding a habitual truant. Amends the definition of "absent student" for purposes of the truancy prevention policy provisions. Requires a public school to hold an attendance conference not later than 10 instructional days (instead of five instructional days) after the student's fifth absence. Prohibits a public school from expelling a student in kindergarten through grade 8 solely because the student is chronically absent or a habitual truant. ISBA was among five organizations testifying

in support of SB 482 with the objective of improving student attendance. No witness testified in opposition to this bill.

Contact Your Area Legislators During Session

To find your legislators visit [HERE](#). Once you know who your senator and representative are, you can use a legislative directory maintained by ISBA and available [HERE](#) to begin advocating.

Thank you for your participation in the ISBA Legislative Action Network. Let's stand united in 2025 to put children first and support sound K-12 education policy in Indiana!

Sincerely,



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